

A SPECIAL REPORT

APPELLATE HOT LIST

The appellate luminaries featured in our 2019 special report won key matters before the U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts of appeals, staying true to their practice philosophies along the way. Here, they recount how they tackled appeals involving everything from racial gerrymandering to RICO. For more on their stories, read on. —*Lisa Helem*

STRIS & MAHER

Peter Stris discusses the firm's top U.S. Supreme Court win.

■ **TELL US ABOUT YOUR TOP U.S. SUPREME COURT OR FEDERAL APPEALS COURT VICTORY OVER THE PAST YEAR AND HOW YOU AND YOUR TEAM ACHIEVED THE WIN.** We scored a 9-0 victory before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Fourth Estate Public Benefit Corp. v. Wall-Street.com*. Overcoming strong policy arguments, we persuaded the court to adopt a plain text interpretation of the Copyright Act's "registration" requirement. We credit this achievement to the talent and hard work of our appellate team.

Over the last four U.S. Supreme Court terms, we won five of the nine merits cases we handled. This term, we hope to continue the trend with *Thole v. U.S. Bank*, an [Employee Retirement Income Security Act] standing case in which our petition for certiorari was granted earlier this year.

■ **HOW DID YOUR FIRM APPROACH APPELLATE SUCCESS OVER THE PAST YEAR?** We invested in our future. Our junior lawyers hold significant roles on our cases. This year, they crafted strategy, drafted briefs, met with the Office of the Solicitor General, presented federal circuit court arguments and much more.

■ **WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ELEMENT OF APPELLATE PRACTICE IN YOUR OPINION?** Collaboration. We love partnering with our clients, other law firms and one another to solve our clients' most significant legal challenges.

■ **WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU LEARNED AS A YOUNG**



Peter Stris

LAWYER? This may seem obvious, but listen to your clients. They often know their case better than anyone and have valuable insights that will help you advance their cause.

Submitted by Peter Stris, managing partner at Stris & Maher.